

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

--6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for encoding an image, comprising:

compressing means for compressing a plurality of pixel data representative of a color image and expressed by vectors in a color space representing red, green and blue (R, G, B) components by making the pixel data fewer;

classifying means for classifying the compressed pixel data into a class;

memory means for storing predictive data corresponding to said class and including the pixel data expressed by vectors in the color space; and

predicting means for predicting an image using the predictive data.--

Claims 7-9 (Canceled)

--10. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding an image, comprising the steps of:

compressing a plurality of pixel data representative of a color image and expressed by vectors in a color space representing red, green and blue (R, G, B) components by making the pixel data fewer;

classifying the compressed pixel data into a class;

storing predictive data corresponding to said class and including the pixel data expressed by vectors in the color space; and

predicting an image using the predictive data.--